

# Heroes of COMPASSION

*Seniors Living, Loving, and Giving for a Better Community*



Retired  
Senior  
Volunteer  
Program

# JOY

and connection  
through  
volunteering



*Volunteer Kay Stewart*

**Kay Stewart finds joy in the teamwork she feels as a Metropolitan Library System Friends of the Library volunteer. Each Tuesday she joins other volunteers to sort boxes of donated books in preparation for the Friends' biggest event, the two-day book sale held each February where all proceeds go to help fund the library system.**

Volunteering gives Kay the opportunity to be with like-minded people who enjoy giving back to their community, she says.

Kay grew up in Chicago and graduated from Chicago State University in 1983. In addition to volunteering with Friends of the Library, she also is a volunteer telephone reader for the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, and volunteers with the Oklahoma Black Museum and Performing Arts Center/

National African American Jazz Legacy Museum.

In her free time, she enjoys organizing her home, taking care of her parakeets and plants, and increasing her knowledge in music appreciation and art history, as well as spending time with her family, including her fraternal twin sister, Fay. She said that her family members also have a joy of volunteering.

"It enriches our lives and gives us a renewed sense of purpose," said Kay, 63. She also says volunteering keeps her healthy and connected to others and she looks forward to the activities they attend together outside of volunteering, such as dinners, luncheons, award ceremonies, and picnics.

**To learn about volunteering contact Laura McRaniels at 405-605-3110. Or visit [www.rsvpokc.org](http://www.rsvpokc.org).**

## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT A SUCCESS!

In September we had a wonderful Volunteer Appreciation Swing-On-By Drive-Through Event in the parking lot of our new offices. It was great to see everyone and a joy to show our appreciation.





*Provide-A-Ride client Lydia Scheuring*

## Within seconds of talking with Provide-A-Ride client Lydia Scheuring, you become captivated by her positive attitude and enthusiasm for living in the United States.

Born in Manheim, Germany, Lydia began racing thoroughbred horses after World War II at the Munich racetrack.

In 1948, Lydia, who lost her family during the war, was noticed by a member of the U.S. Army's Olympic Equestrian team during the summer Olympics in Europe. Lydia's love of horses and excellent riding skills stood out enough that the Army sanctioned the rider to sponsor Lydia to come to the United States to share her knowledge of riding horses.

"I did so with \$8 in my pocket and a suitcase," the Edmond resident said. "American people opened their hearts and homes to me."

She first went to Illinois where she became an equestrian, buying a small farm and training horses. Lydia also spent 20 years as a Chicago interior designer and teacher of interior design. In the 1970s, Lydia's reputation as an equestrian earned her a lifetime honorary member of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.

"My cousin said to me one time, 'We can be anything we set our mind to.' "I never forgot that," Lydia, 96, said.

Lydia moved to Oklahoma in 1994, eventually settling in Edmond 20 years ago and has been a Provide-A-Ride client for most of those years.

"RSVP should have a gold medal," she said. "The program has such compassion for humans. The outside world doesn't really understand what it's like for seniors who can no longer drive. We are really stuck. Volunteers and the donors who support the program are sunshine to our hearts."

**To learn more about about becoming a volunteer driver with Provide-A-Ride, contact PAR Coordinator April Lucas, 405-605-3106.**

# Connecting Volunteers with Community Opportunities



## Diabetes Solutions of Oklahoma

Diabetes Solutions of Oklahoma's mission is to improve the lives of those affected by diabetes through education, programming and support, and RSVP has teamed up with them to provide care and comfort to children newly diagnosed with diabetes by creating ALBB the Bear! Volunteers with basic hand-sewing skills can help either at home or at in-office sewing circles by stitching colorful patches onto the Arms, Legs, Belly, and "Booty" ("ALBB") of a cuddly teddy-bear to help educate

children about the places they can receive their insulin shots and make them feel a little braver with their new friend!

## Homeless Alliance

With winter swiftly approaching, you can help meet the needs of our neighbors who are currently living without a home by serving meals at either breakfast or lunch, helping sort items in the Donations Room, or, for our animal lovers, helping in the Pet Kennel to make the guest's animal companions feel welcome and comfortable during their stay!



## LEARN MORE

To learn more about these opportunities or how to volunteer, contact Assistant Director Laura McRaniels at 405-605-3110 or email [laura.mcraniels@rsvpokc.org](mailto:laura.mcraniels@rsvpokc.org)



## Power of Endowment

**Bill Cress, a former RSVP of Central Oklahoma board member and volunteer, grew up on a ranch in Colorado and watched how his father successfully ran the ranch with limited resources.**

"My dad was an excellent manager and understood the need for saving for a rainy day," Bill said.

That background shaped how Bill would help support organizations that are important to him, including RSVP of Central Oklahoma. Bill helped guide RSVP to set up an endowment fund, a permanent fund that provides income from the interest generated from the principal. Each year, RSVP receives an interest check that helps offset the organization's expenses. Bill has been a contributor to RSVP's endowment fund through the Oklahoma City Community Foundation for two decades.

"An endowment cannot ever be spent down," the Yukon resident said. "It stays there and earns interest that provides income for day-to-day operations, no matter what."

**■ If you would like to learn more about contributing to RSVP of Central Oklahoma's endowment fund, call Executive Director Beth Patterson at 405-605-3110 or visit our website at [rsvpokc.org/donate](http://rsvpokc.org/donate).**



# A Year of Moving Forward

2022 has been a year of moving forward together for RSVP of Central Oklahoma and its volunteers, Provide-A-Ride clients, staff, board and advisory council members, and donors. Our spirits have been buoyed by your commitment and encouragement as we strive to return to a pre-pandemic normal. It was also a year of celebrating new starts for our organization. Our Volunteer Coordinator, Laura McRaniels, was named Assistant Director, and we moved from our long-time office location in Oklahoma

City to our new digs in Midwest City. We end this year with a review of our numbers below, but numbers can't begin to represent how much gratitude we have for your tenacity and dedication to making an impact on your community and improving the lives of older adults.

*Beth Patterson*

Beth Patterson  
Executive Director

## 2022: Year in Review

### Volunteer Programs

**259** active RSVP volunteers  
(43 new volunteers this year)

Volunteers contributed  
**45,135 service hours** valued at  
over \$1.1 million.

Volunteers served the  
missions and clients of  
**70 local nonprofits**  
(5 new partner agencies)

**28 active** PAR volunteer  
**drivers** (8 new drivers this  
year!)

Provided **2,120 rides**  
to doctor's visits, driving  
**74,200 miles**

**Supporting 148**  
low-income, non-driving older  
adults (58 new clients)

### Funding

\$123,000 - AmeriCorps Seniors

\$135,000 - UW of Central OK

\$45,000 - Areawide Aging  
Agency

\$6,654 - Contributions

\$9,205 - Fundraising

\$9,460 - Grants

\$5,575 - OCCF endowment  
fund earnings

\$28,000 - Covid Relief funds

### Total Expenses

\$353,825



### *In Fond Remembrance*

In loving memory of our  
volunteers whose generosity in  
service touched all our lives.

*Bill Zumwalt  
Verbena Loggins  
Jim Jeter*

A proud partner of:



Congratulations to  
**FRANK FREIDHOFF**  
winner of the hours drawing.  
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